MARVEL COMICS
BLOODAXE AND
THUNDERSTRIKE
TOGETHER!
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DIRECT EDITION
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$1.50 US $2.05 CAN
IN THE SHADOW OF SETH!

WHEN ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON STAMPS HIS WOODEN WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MYSTICAL WEAPON CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE! ARMED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS, MASTERSON WORKS TO PROVE THAT ONE MAN MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE THIS WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THUNDERSTRIKE!

THE ARMAGEDDON AGENDA!

BARELY TWENTY MINUTES AGO, AN ASTONISHED BLOODAXE WAS CASUALLY BRUTALIZED BY THIS BEING...
A SAVAGE AND RUTHLESS FORCE OF NATURE WHO AMUSES HIMSELF BY ASSUMING MORTAL GUISE...
SETH, THE SERPENT-GOD OF DEATH!
AT LAST! YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED--!
NO NEED TO LOOK SO SURPRISED. I KNEW YOU'D COME.
I JUST HOPE YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING AN "ABANDON ALL HOPE, YE WHO ENTER" GREETING...
I FIND SUCH MELODRAMATIC CLICHES RATHER TIRESOME.

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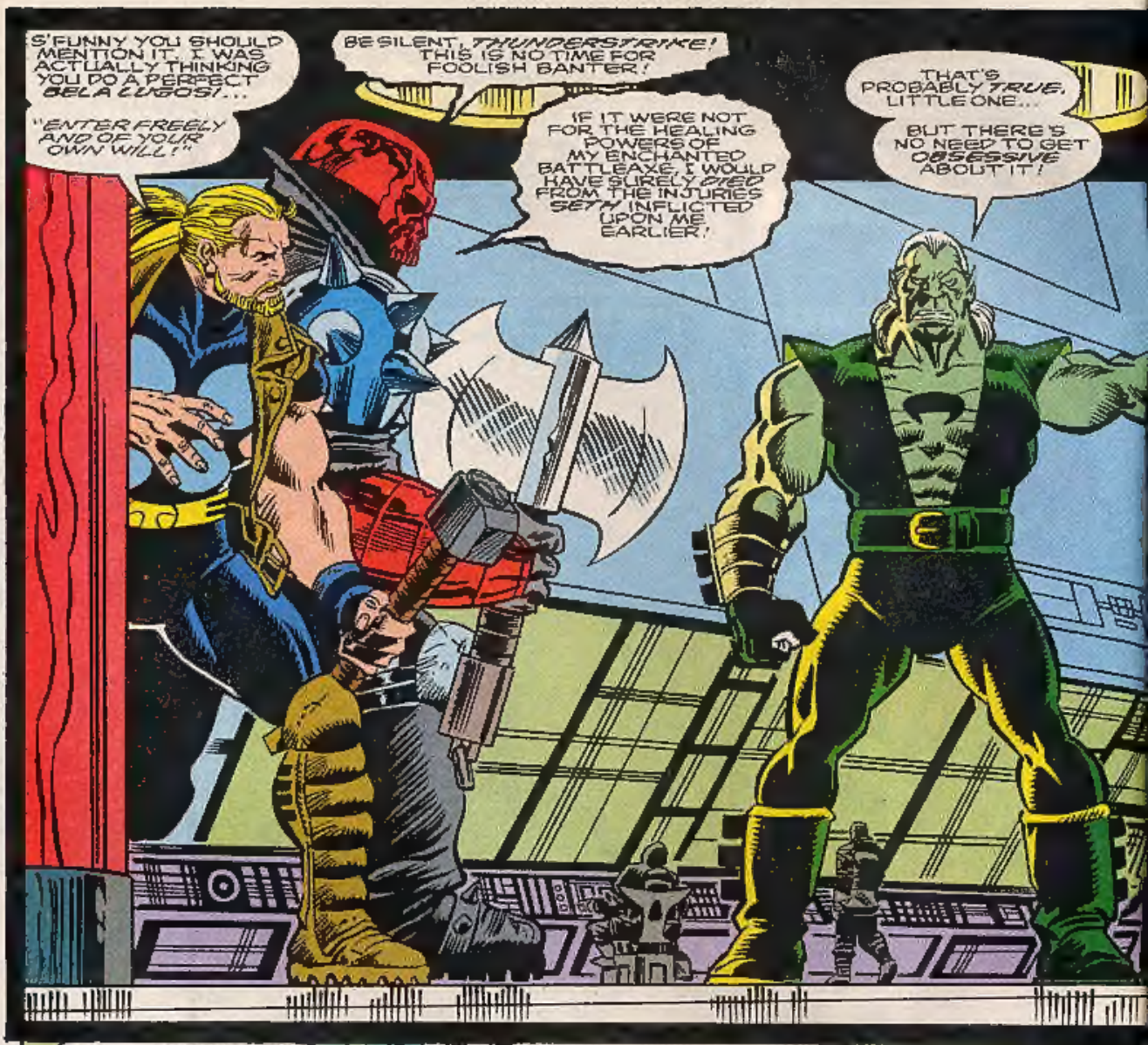
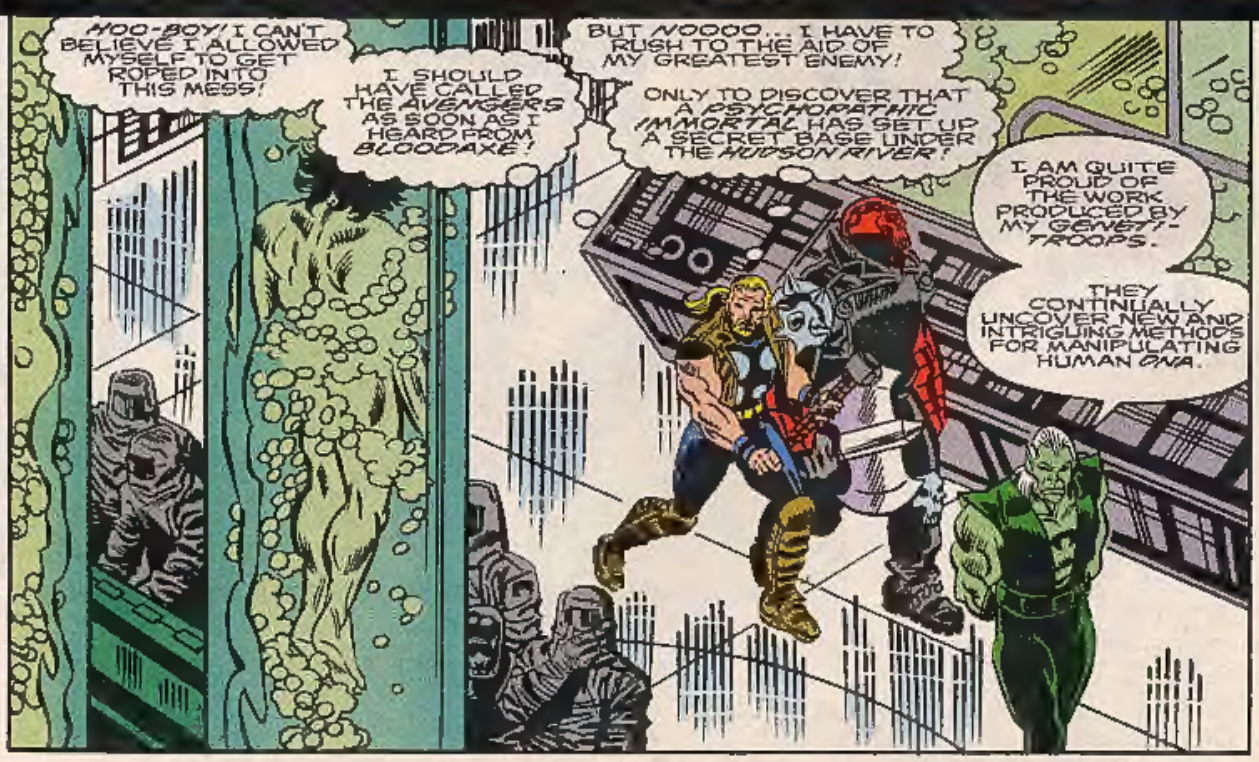
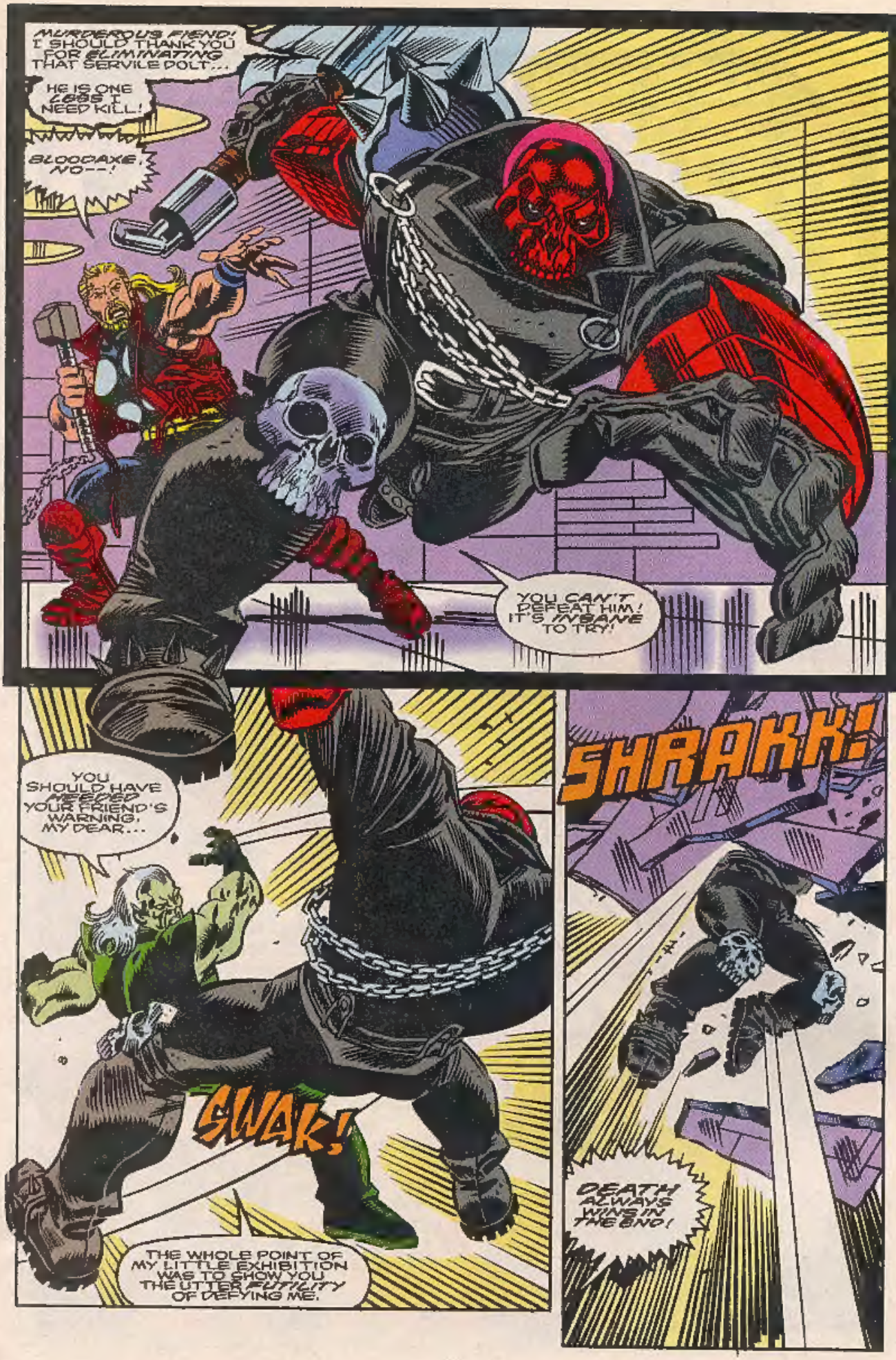
THUNDERSTRIKE® Vol. 1, No. 16, March, 1995. (ISSN #1073-8789) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.05 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; $30.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THUNDERSTRIKE (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THUNDERSTRIKE, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.**


S'FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION IT. I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING YOU DO A PERFECT BELA LUGOSI...
"ENTER FREELY AND OF YOUR OWN WILL!"
BE SILENT, THUNDERSTRIKE! THIS IS NO TIME FOR FOOLISH BANTER!
IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE HEALING POWERS OF MY ENCHANTED BATTLEAXE, I WOULD HAVE SURELY DIED FROM THE INJURIES SETH INFLICTED UPON ME EARLIER!
THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE, LITTLE ONE...
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO GET OBSESSIVE ABOUT IT!


HOO-BOY! I CAN'T BELIEVE I ALLOWED MYSELF TO GET ROPED INTO THIS MESS!
I SHOULD HAVE CALLED THE AVENGERS AS SOON AS I HEARD FROM BLOODAXE!
BUT NOOOO... I HAVE TO RUSH TO THE AID OF MY GREATEST ENEMY!
ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT A PSYCHOPATHIC IMMORTAL HAS SET UP A SECRET BASE UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER!
I AM QUITE PROUD OF THE WORK PRODUCED BY MY GENET!-TROOPS.
THEY CONTINUALLY UNCOVER NEW AND INTRIGUING METHODS FOR MANIPULATING HUMAN DNA.

TRUST ME, IF I HAD TRULY WANTED YOU *DEAD*... WE *WOULDN'T* BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION!
I KNEW YOU COULD RESTORE YOURSELF. I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH YOUR WEAPON... AND THE MAGICAL PROPERTIES IT POSSESSES.
COME--! I CAN SEE THAT YOUR FRIEND WOULD ENJOY A TOUR OF MY *ARMAGEDDON COMPLEX!*
KILL KILL KILL
WERE YOU INVOLVED WITH THE CREATION OF *BISON*?
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D MAKE THAT CONNECTION...
MY *SERPENT'S TEETH* ARE ALL GENETICALLY ENHANCED.
WHEN THE PROPER TIME COMES TO STRIKE, YOUR HUMAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE *POWERLESS* TO STOP THEM!

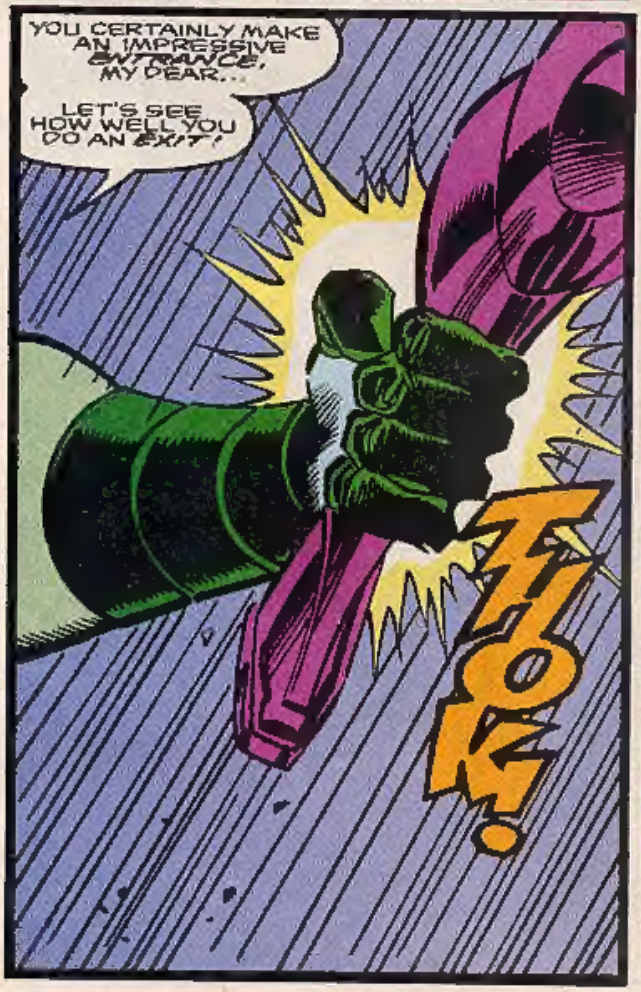
SOMETHING TELLS ME I NEED A PLAN--AND FAST!
NICE PLACE YOU GOT HERE...BUT YOU CAN'T HONESTLY BELIEVE WE'LL LET YOU USE IT AGAINST MANKIND!
YOU HAVE NO--
Twak!
FORGIVE ME, MASTER--!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STUMBLE AGAINST YOU!
YOUR CLUMSINESS IS MOST OPPORTUNE, CHILD--!
IT ALLOWS ME TO SHOW MY GUESTS HOW EASILY I CAN INSTANTLY TRANSFORM AN INSIGNIFICANT WORM INTO A VERITABLE GOD!
AND JUST AS INSTANTLY BESTOW UPON YOU MY MOST PRECIOUS GIFT...
THE GIFT OF OBLIVION ETERNAL!
MY GENETI-TROOPS WILL EVENTUALLY MASS-PRODUCE UNSTOPPABLE GENETIC HORRORS WHICH WILL ALLOW ME TO NONCHALANTLY EXPLOIT MANKIND...
AS
I
SEE
FIT!

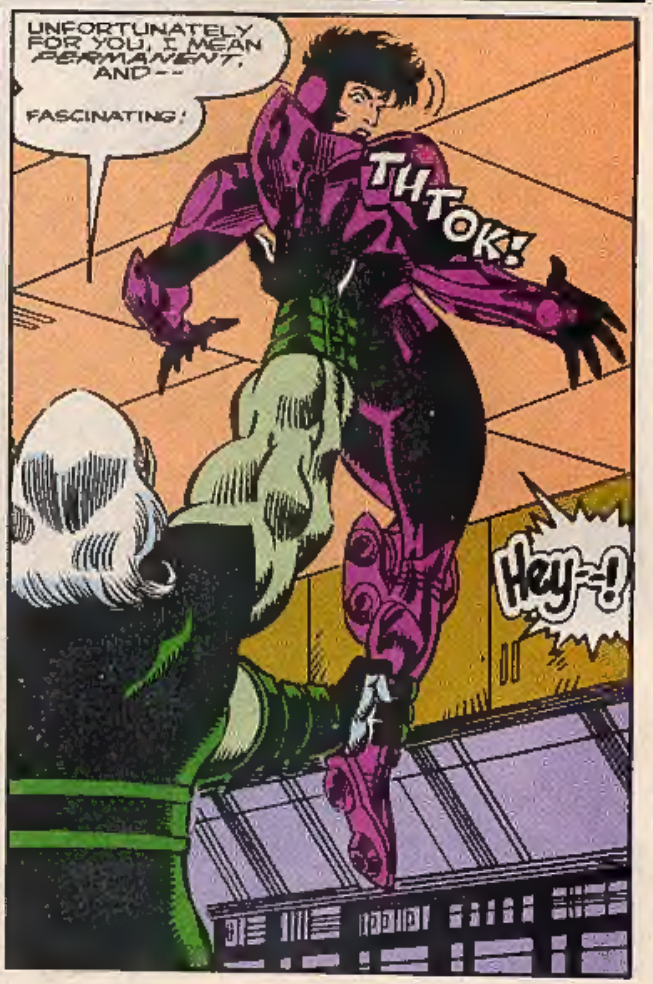

MURDEROUS FIEND! I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR ELIMINATING THAT SERVILE DOLT...
HE IS ONE LESS I NEED KILL!
BLOODAXE! NO--!
YOU CAN'T DEFEAT HIM! IT'S INSANE TO TRY!
YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED YOUR FRIEND'S WARNING, MY DEAR...
SWAK!
THE WHOLE POINT OF MY LITTLE EXHIBITION WAS TO SHOW YOU THE UTTER FUTILITY OF DEFYING ME.
SHRAKK!
DEATH ALWAYS WINS IN THE END!

BLOODAXE MAY STILL PROVE VALUABLE!
A DEATH-GOD CAN ALWAYS USE A GOOD PSYCHO VIGILANTE!
THAT'S WHY SO MANY ARE POPPING UP THESE DAYS!
YOU, HOWEVER, ARE TOO COMPASSIONATE... TOO HAMPERED BY PETTY MORALITY!
AND YOU SEE THOSE AS CHARACTER FLAWS--?!
KFWAK!
MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...
BLOODAXE MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT YOU!
OHMIGOSH! I HIT HIM WITH MY BEST SHOT--
--AND HE DIDN'T EVEN BLINK!
IGNORANT FOOL! I WOULD HAVE GRANTED YOU THE SWEET RELEASE OF UNENDING PEACE!
AARRGH!
INSTEAD, I SHALL BRAND YOU WITH MY MARK-- THE MARK OF DEATH!
YOUR FATE IS SEALED! YOUR DESTRUCTION ASSURED!

GO EASY ON THE *THREATS*, BIG MAN!
THEY COULD COME BACK TO *HAUNT* YOU!
AN *ATTACK* FROM ABOVE--!
WHO WOULD DARE?!
SHA-BAM

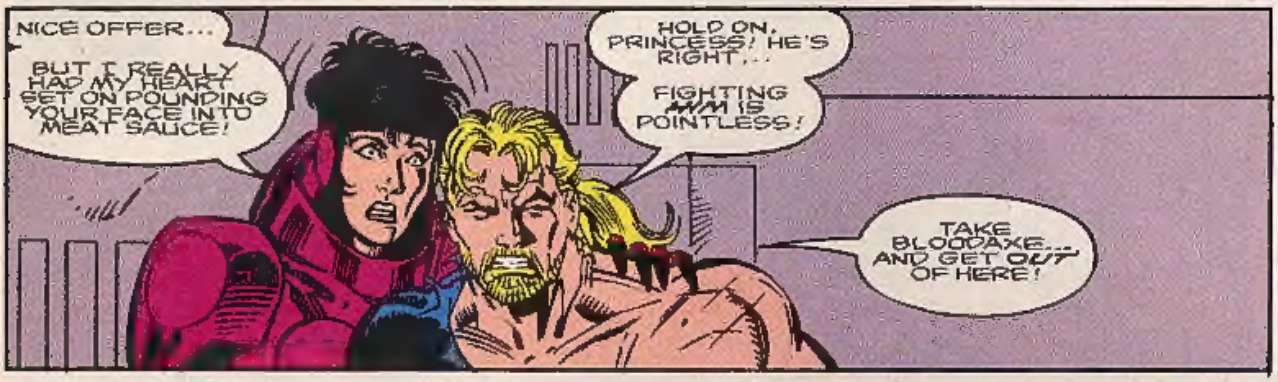
JUST THAT L'IL OL' SECRET WEAPON... *ME!*
STELLARIS IS MY NAME! BLAST-MAKING IS MY GAME!
WA-THOOM!


YOU CERTAINLY MAKE AN IMPRESSIVE *ENTRANCE*, MY DEAR...
LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU DO AN *EXIT*!
FLOK!

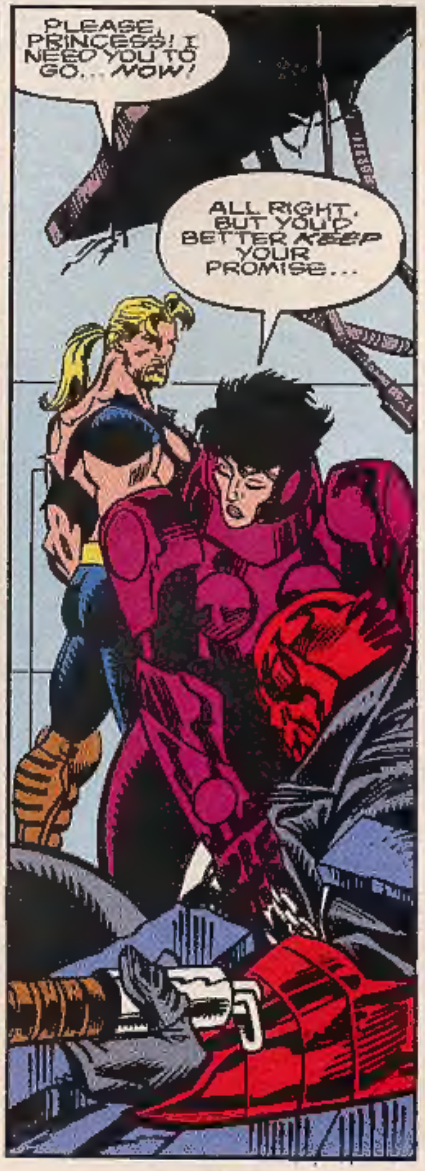

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I MEAN *PERMANENT*, AND--
FASCINATING!
THTOK!
Hey--!

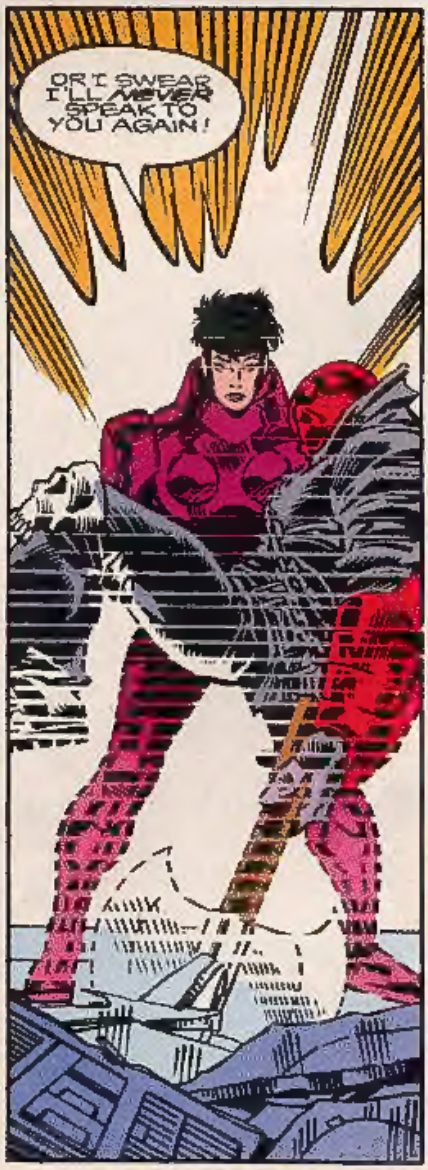
WHAT IN THE LOST NEBULA DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
APPARENTLY MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF.
I THOUGHT I WAS DEALING WITH SOMEONE ORGANIC--!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MEAN, BUT...
HANDS OFF!
I HATE BEING PAWED BY STRANGE MEN!
AND THEY DON'T COME ANY STRANGER THAN YOU!
FWOOSH!
WHOOPS! LOOKS LIKE I ACCIDENTALLY FLASH-FRIED OL' FROG FACE!
IT'S NOT OVER, PRINCESS!
ARE YOU NUTS? THE MAN IS A CHARRED MEMORY! OF COURSE, IT'S O--
NO!
CUTE STUNT WITH THE BOOT THRUSTERS, MY DEAR!
INEFFECTIVE... BUT STILL CUTE!

NOW THEN... CAN WE PLEASE DISPENSE WITH THE TIME-WASTING HEROICS?
WHY CONTINUE TO COMPLICATE MATTERS? THE BOTTOM LINE IS YOU LOSE!
YOUR CAUSE IS TOTALLY HOPELESS. DEATH CAN BE DELAYED... BUT NEVER DEFEATED!
YOU'LL EVENTUALLY SUCCUMB TO ME, ANYWAY!
SHOW A LITTLE CLASS... AND SAVE YOURSELF A WORLD OF PAIN!
I PROMISE TO BE GENTLE!


NICE OFFER...
BUT I REALLY HAD MY HEART SET ON POUNDING YOUR FACE INTO MEAT SAUCE!
HOLD ON, PRINCESS! HE'S RIGHT...
FIGHTING HIM IS POINTLESS!
TAKE BLOODAXE... AND GET OUT OF HERE!

NO WAY, BLONDIE! I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, PRINCESS.
BUT, ERIC... HE'LL KILL YOU!
NOT TODAY, PRINCESS! I PROMISE YOU... NOT TODAY!


PLEASE, PRINCESS! I NEED YOU TO GO... NOW!
ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR PROMISE...


OR I SWEAR I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN!

YOU'RE A FOOL TO SEND HER AWAY
SHE ALONE HAD THE RAREST CHANCE OF GIVING ME PAUSE
PROBABLY AT THE COST OF HER LIFE!
A PRICE I WASN'T WILLING TO PAY!
WHY NOT? YOUR OWN LIFE IS FORFEIT YOU WEAR THE MARK OF DEATH UPON YOUR CHEST!
EVEN YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY THINK THAT YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF BEATING ME!
AND YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY THINK THAT I WOULDN'T TRY!
I WAS GIVEN THIS MACE FOR A REASON
I'M NOT THE TYPE TO JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL INDULGE YOU ONE LAST TIME EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE TOTALLY INCAPABLE OF INJURING OR DEFEATING ME
GO AHEAD! MAKE YOUR GRAND GESTURE
I'LL TRY NOT TO LAUGH!
REEEEEE!
CHOOM!
BELIEVE ME YOU WON'T!

THOOM
SOUND THE ALARM
THE BASE IS UNDER ATTACK
SMOSH!
THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS COLLAPSING
WHOOM!
RUN! WE MUST REACH THE ESCAPE POD!
INSECT!
YOU HAVE DESTROYED MONTHS OF WORK
YOU HAVE ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME!
YOU INSPIRED ME WITH YOUR LITTLE SPEECH ABOUT DELAYING DEATH
YOUR ONLY REWARD WILL BE A THANKLESS GRAVE
THIS BASE WAS BUILT BENEATH A RIVER AND
THOOM!
SAVE YOUR BREATH

ROARR!
THERE'S NO NEED TO STATE THE OBVIOUS.
NEXT ISSUE
THE AWESOME AFTERMATH!

BONUS FEATURE!
Stan Lee presents
TALES OF ASGARD
FEATURING THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS!
FORGIVE ME DEAR LADY
THY BROTHERS AND THEIR COMPANIONS TAKE ISSUE WITH THE ATTENTION SHOWERED ON THEE!
THUS MUST THE FLASHING SWORD OF FANDRAL NOW SHOWER UPON THEM!
THOUGH MY LIMBS DESPERATELY CRAVE BATTLE, THE LION OF ASGARD SHALL PERSONALLY SECURE THE EXIT THAT NONE OF THESE COWARDS CAN--
UFFT
MY APOLOGIES, VOLSTAGG--
'TWAS CARELESSNESS--NOT MALICE WHICH CAUSED MY BOOT TO PROPEL THEE INTO THE FRAY!
THE HEART OF A HERO!
A POX ON THESE LOUTS, HOGUN! FOR NONE OF THEM ARE TRULY WORTHY OF OUR METTLE!
A TALE OF PAGEANTRY AND PATHOS BY
RON FRENZ
PLOTTER
TOM DEFALCO
SCRIPTER
PATRICK OLIFFE
PENCILER
AL MILGROM
INKER
JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER
MIKE ROCKWITZ
COLORIST
RALPH MACCHIO
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MARK GRUENWALD
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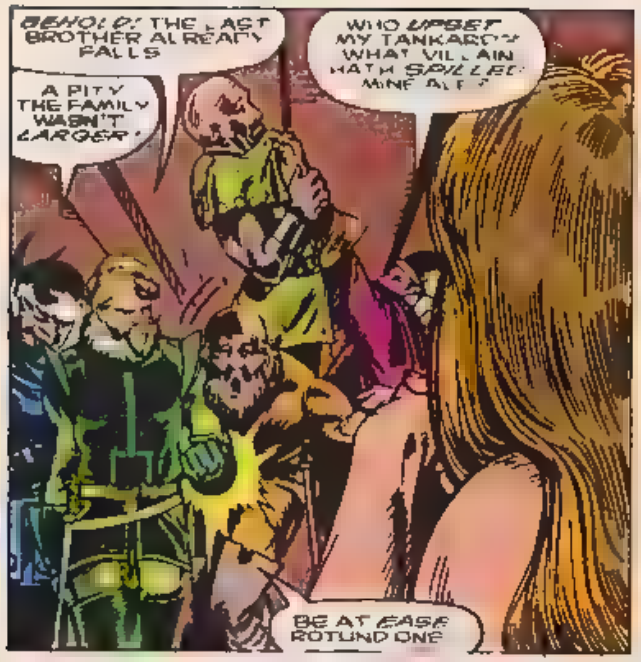
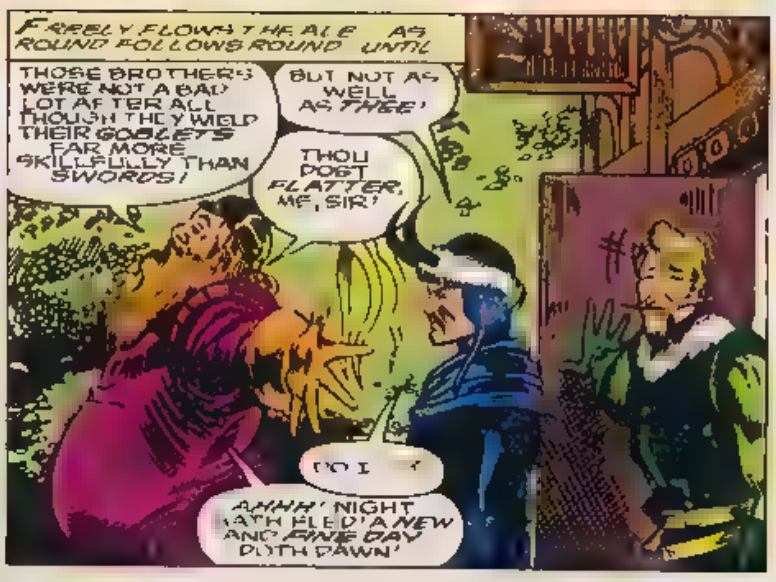

BEHOLD! THE LAST BROTHER ALREADY FALLS
A PITY THE FAMILY WASN'T LARGER!
WHO UPSET MY TANKARD? WHAT VILLAIN HATH SPILLED MINE ALE?
BE AT EASE ROTUND ONE

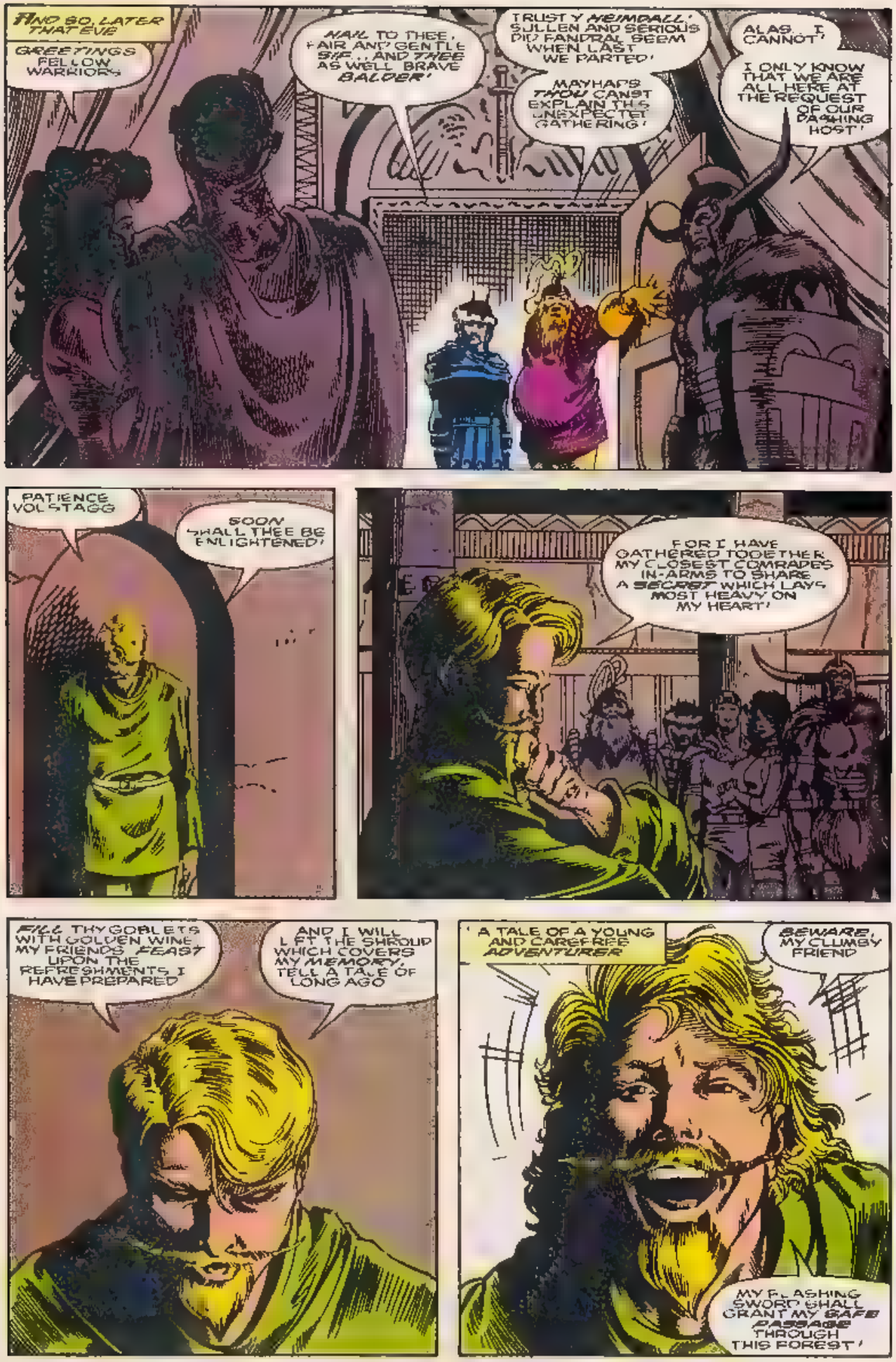
WE SHALL CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY WITH A ROUND FOR ALL!
INCLUDING OUR RECENT FOES!

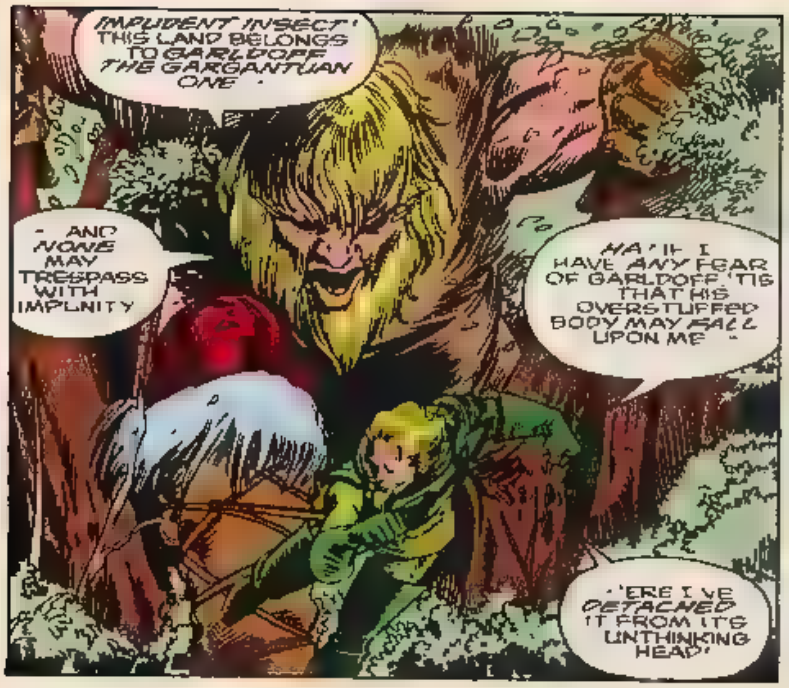
LET US ONE AND ALL TOAST THE BEAUTY OF THE FAIR DAMSEL
FOR WHOM WE HAVE ALL SO VALIANTLY FOUGHT!


FREELY FLOWS THE ALE AS ROUND FOLLOWS ROUND UNTIL
THOSE BROTHERS WERE NOT A BAD LOT AFTER ALL THOUGH THEY WIELD THEIR GOBLETS FAR MORE SKILLFULLY THAN SWORDS!
BUT NOT AS WELL AS THEE!
THOU DOST FLATTER ME, SIR!
NO I
AHHH! NIGHT HATH FLED A NEW AND FINE DAY BOTH DAWN!

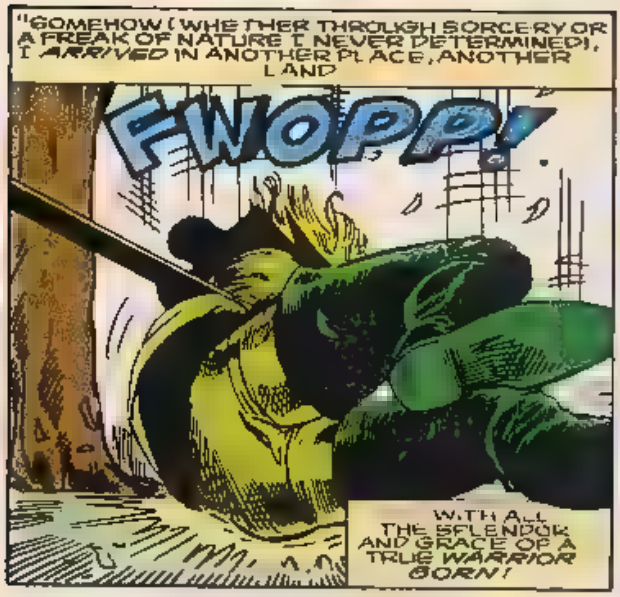
NEW, IT MAY BE
BUT HARDLY FINE!
DOES SOMETHING TROUBLE THEE MY FRIEND?
AYE, BUT I CANNOT SPEAK OF IT NOW!
THOUGH HAUNTED BY THE DESOLATION IN HIS FRIEND'S VOICE, HOGUN RESPECTS HIS PRIVACY, AND PRIES NO FURTHER!

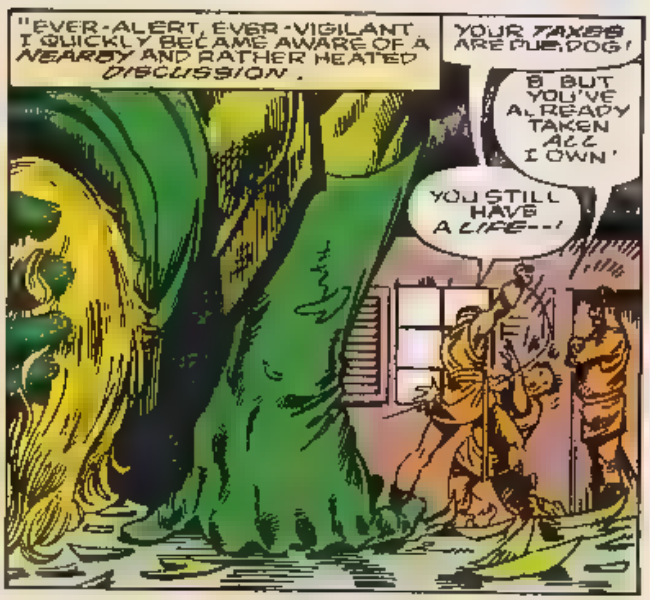
SLOWLY DO THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS PASS BUT THEN EVEN AS THE DAY RACES TOWARD ITS PREDESTINED CONCLUSION A HERALD ENTERS THE GREAT HALL OF THE PALALE KOVA!
I SEEK HOGUN THE GRIM AND VOLSTAGG THE VAINGLORIOUS!
HUMMM! ARE YE BIDDEN TO THE HOME OF FANDRAL THE DASHING!

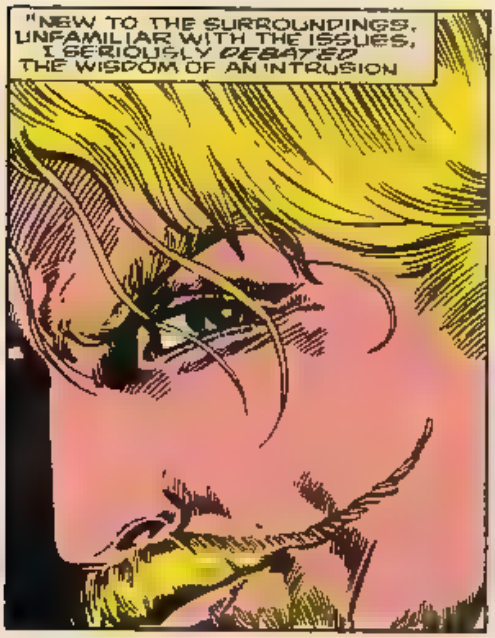

AND SO, LATER THAT EVE
GREETINGS FELLOW WARRIORS
HAIL TO THEE, FAIR AND GENTLE SIF... AND THREE AS WELL, BRAVE BALDER!
TRUSTY HEIMDALL! SULLEN AND SERIOUS DID FANDRAL SEEM WHEN LAST WE PARTED!
MAYHAPS THOU CANST EXPLAIN THIS UNEXPECTED GATHERING!
ALAS... I CANNOT!
I ONLY KNOW THAT WE ARE ALL HERE AT THE REQUEST OF OUR DASHING HOST!
PATIENCE VOLSTAGG
SOON SHALL THEE BE ENLIGHTENED!
FOR I HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER MY CLOSEST COMRADES IN-ARMS TO SHARE A SECRET WHICH LAYS MOST HEAVY ON MY HEART!
FILL THY GOBLETS WITH GOLDEN WINE MY FRIENDS... FEAST UPON THE REFRESHMENTS I HAVE PREPARED
AND I WILL LIFT THE SHROUD WHICH COVERS MY MEMORY, TELL A TALE OF LONG AGO
A TALE OF A YOUNG AND CAREFREE ADVENTURER
BEWARE, MY CLUMSY FRIEND
MY FLASHING SWORD SHALL GRANT MY SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH THIS FOREST!

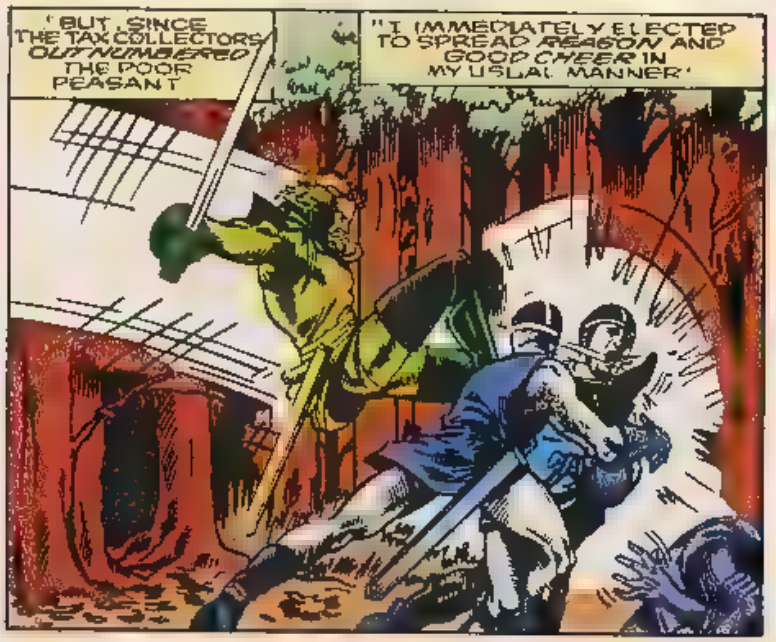

IMPUDENT INSECT! THIS LAND BELONGS TO GARLDOFF THE GARGANTUAN ONE!
- AND NONE MAY TRESPASS WITH IMPUNITY
HA! IF I HAVE ANY FEAR OF GARLDOFF 'TIS THAT HIS OVERSTUFFED BODY MAY FALL UPON ME!
- 'ERE I'VE DETACHED IT FROM IT'S UNTHINKING HEAD!

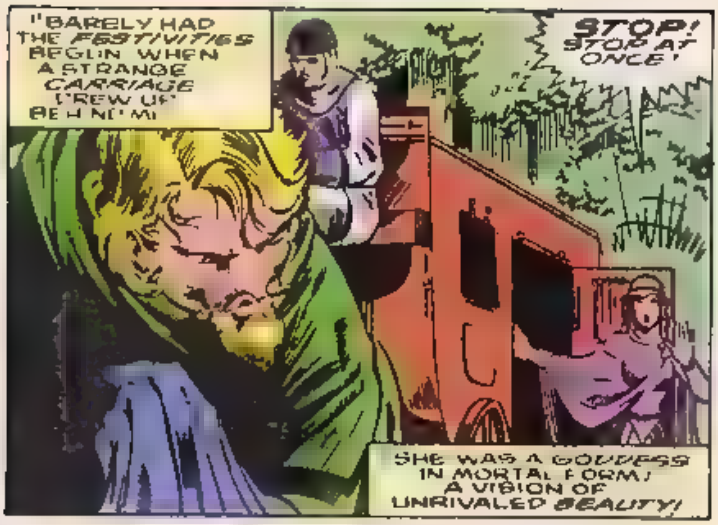
- - SPRINGING FORWARD IN SEARCH OF AN OPEN GLADE (WHERE I COULD BETTER CONDUCT MY SWORDPLAY), I FAILED TO SPY A MYSTERIOUS GLOWING EDDY-
" UNTIL I WAS ALREADY UPON IT!
WHAT WIZARDRY IS THIS?


"SOMEHOW (WHETHER THROUGH SORCERY OR A FREAK OF NATURE I NEVER DETERMINED), I ARRIVED IN ANOTHER PLACE, ANOTHER LAND
FWOPP!
WITH ALL THE SPLENDOR AND GRACE OF A TRUE WARRIOR BORN!

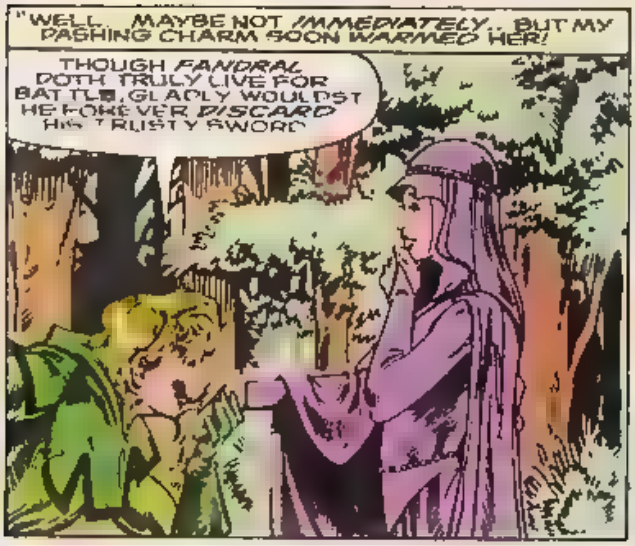

"EVER-ALERT, EVER-VIGILANT I QUICKLY BECAME AWARE OF A NEARBY AND RATHER HEATED DISCUSSION.
YOUR TAXES ARE DUE, DOG!
& BUT YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN ALL I OWN!
YOU STILL HAVE A LIFE--!

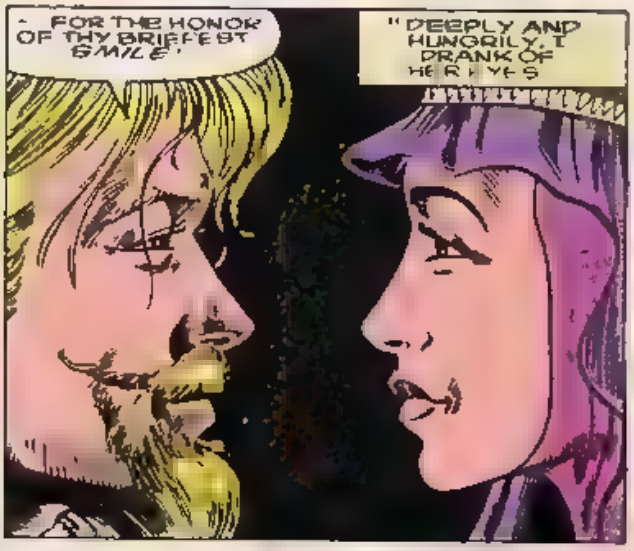

"NEW TO THE SURROUNDINGS, UNFAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES, I SERIOUSLY DEBATED THE WISDOM OF AN INTRUSION


'BUT, SINCE THE TAX COLLECTORS OUTNUMBERED THE POOR PEASANT
"I IMMEDIATELY ELECTED TO SPREAD REASON AND GOOD CHEER IN MY USUAL MANNER'


"BARELY HAD THE FESTIVITIES BEGUN WHEN A STRANGE CARRIAGE DREW UP BEHIND ME
STOP! STOP AT ONCE!
SHE WAS A GODDESS IN MORTAL FORM! A VISION OF UNRIVALED BEAUTY!

"AND AS YE CAN WELL IMAGINE, IMMEDIATELY WAS SHE ENAMORED OF ME
YOU IGNORANT RUFFIAN! ONLY A FOOL OR A MADMAN WOULD DARE ATTACK THE GOVERNOR'S TAX MEN!


"WELL... MAYBE NOT IMMEDIATELY. BUT MY DASHING CHARM SOON WARMED HER!
THOUGH FANDRAL DOTH TRULY LIVE FOR BATTLE, GLADLY WOULDST HE FORE'VER DISCARD HIS TRUSTY SWORD


"... FOR THE HONOR OF THY BRIEFEST SMILE"
"DEEPLY AND HUNGRILY, I DRANK OF HER EYES

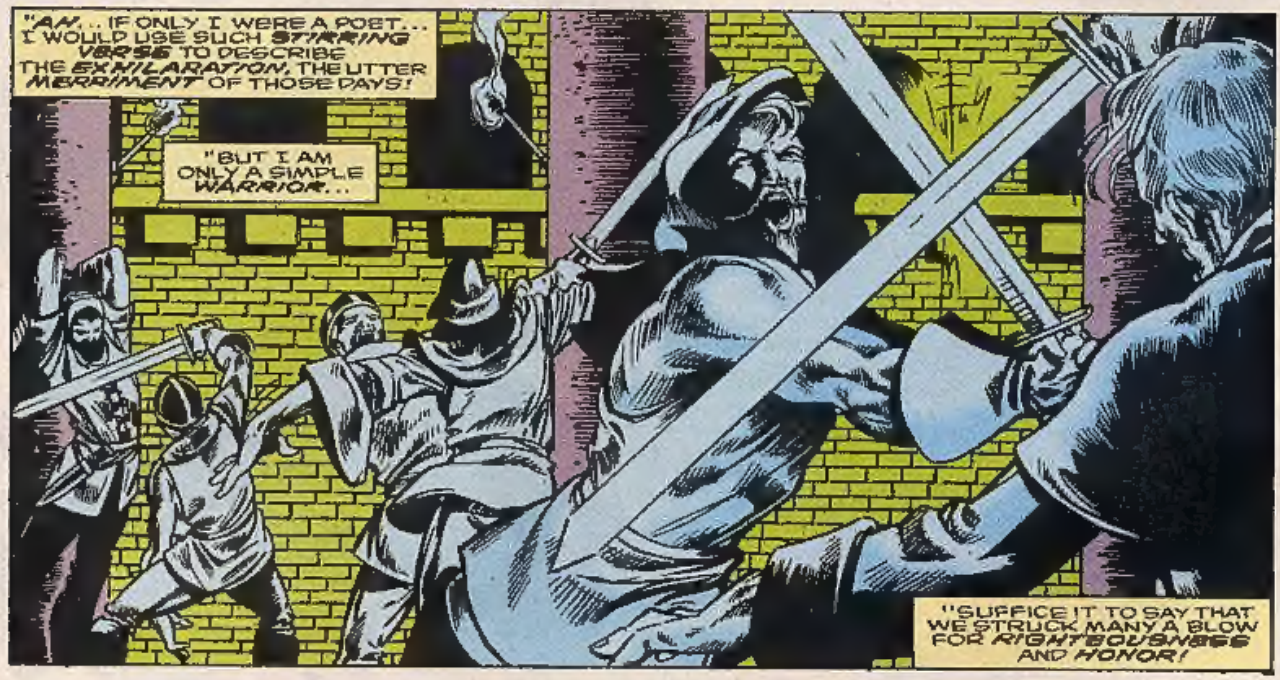
IN THAT INSTANT I KNEW I WAS DESTINED FOR THIS FAIR MAID TO ENTHRALL MY HEART
AND BE MY WIFE!

WIFE

AYE, 'TIS A TALE I'VE SHARED WITH NONE SAVE VALIANT VOLSTAGG
A TALE OF GREAT WARRIORS
AND EVEN GREATER WOE
PRAY THEE CARMINO ONE
PLEASE CONTINUE
OFTEN DO WE ASGARDIANS SPEAK OF HONOR AND MORALITY!
AND YET, 'TIS WITHIN MORTALS THAT SUCH GLORIES TRULY RESIDE!
THEIR VERY FIRST BREATH SIGNALS THE BEGINNING OF A RELENTLESS AND INEVITABLE TREK TOWARD THEIR LAST!

DEATH IS THEIR CONSTANT COMPANION! LURKING BEHIND EVERY THOUGHT!
SNICKERING WITHIN EVERY SHADOW!
BUT, THOUGH THEY ARE ALL OPPRESSED BY THIS GRIM HUNTER...STILL ARE THEY CAPABLE OF PERFORMING SUCH INCREDIBLE FEATS OF HEROISM AND SELF-SACRIFICE!

"MY LADY INFORMED ME THAT A LOCAL GOVERNOR HAD TAKEN TO EXPLOITING THE PEASANTRY WHILE THE RIGHTFUL KING WAS AWAY ON SOME GRAND CRUSADE...
"IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, I BEGAN EXPLOITING THE EXPLOITER...
"...AND OTHERS SOON JOINED ME!


"AH... IF ONLY I WERE A POET... I WOULD USE SUCH STIRRING VERSE TO DESCRIBE THE EXHILARATION, THE UTTER MERRIMENT OF THOSE DAYS!
"BUT I AM ONLY A SIMPLE WARRIOR...
"SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT WE STRUCK MANY A BLOW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HONOR!

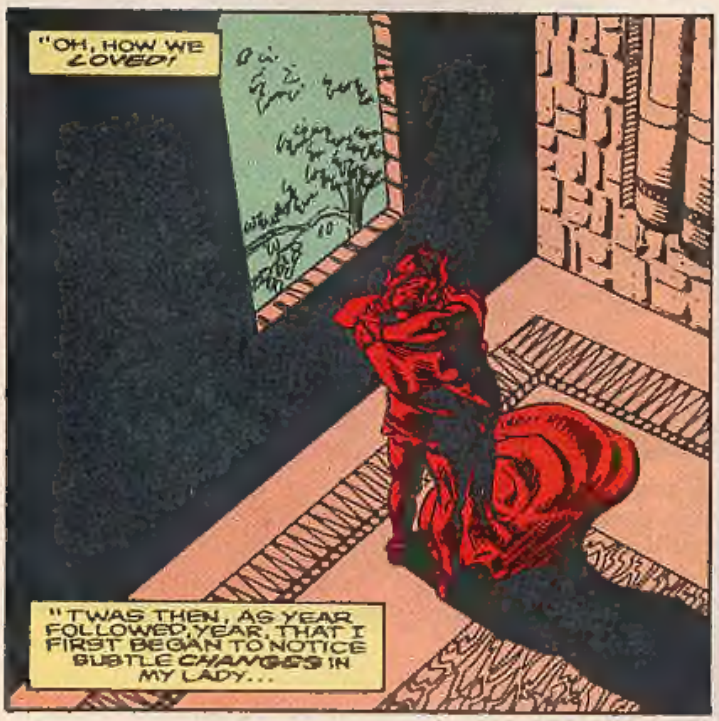
"AND, WITH EACH PASSING DAY, MY LOVE FOR THE MAIDEN FAIR DID BLOSSOM!

"NEVER HAD I KNOWN SUCH RAMPANT JOY!
"SUCH WANTON ELATION!

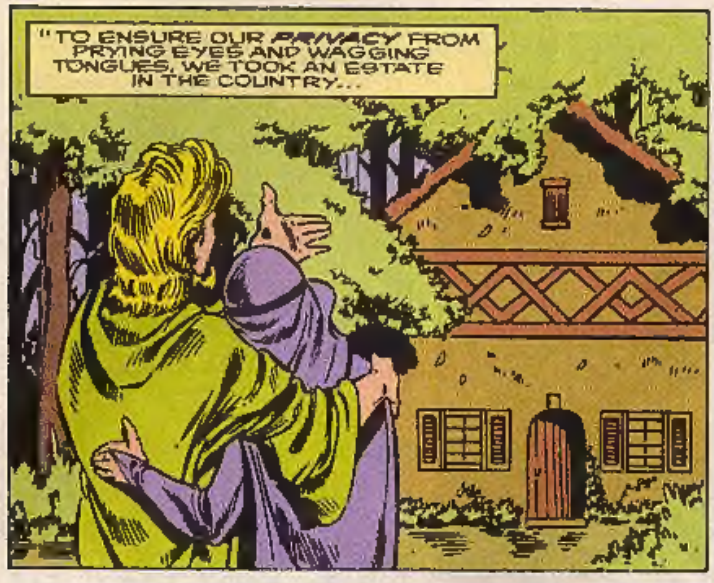
"EVENTUALLY, THE EVIL TYRANT WAS DISPOSED...
"THE RIGHTFUL KING RETURNED TO HIS THRONE...
"MY MIRTHFUL BAND AND I WERE PROCLAIMED HEROES OF THE LAND...

"AND THEN, BEFORE KING AND THOSE I NOW CALLED COUNTRYMEN, MY LADY AND I DECLARED OURSELVES...
"MAN AND WIFE!

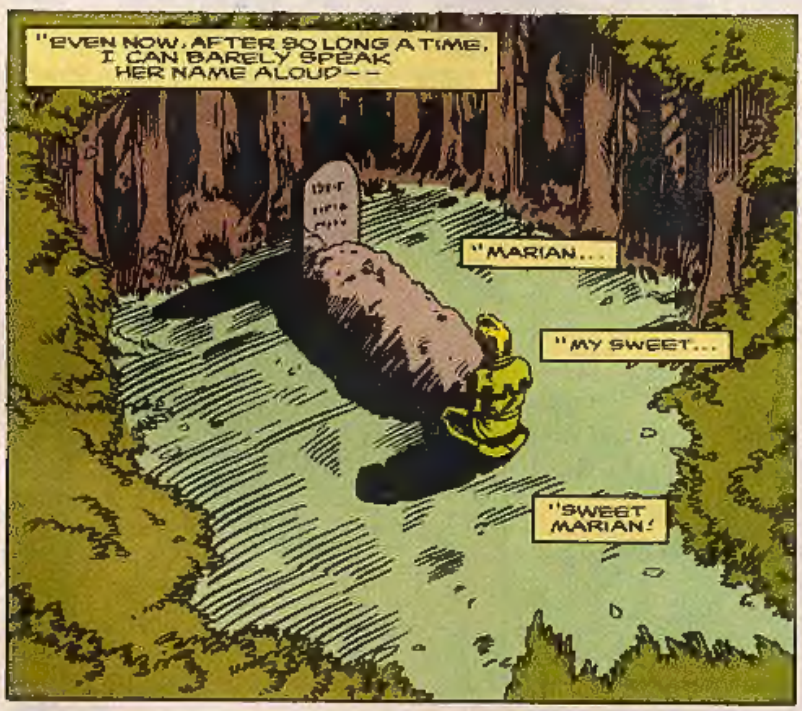
"TITLED BY THE GRATEFUL MONARCH, WE WERE HONORED IN COURT!
"OH, HOW WE FEASTED AND REVELED!


"OH, HOW WE LOVED!
"TWAS THEN, AS YEAR FOLLOWED YEAR, THAT I FIRST BEGAN TO NOTICE SUBTLE CHANGES IN MY LADY...

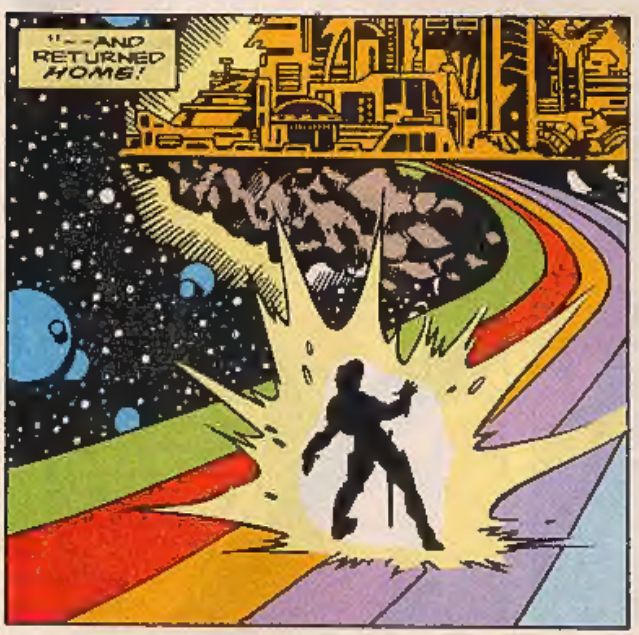
"THE MOST PRECIOUS FLOWER OF MY LIFE WAS SLOWLY BEING RAVAGED BY TIME AND AGE...
"AND YET, EVEN AS HER PHYSICAL BODY BEGAN TO WILT...
"HER TRUE BEAUTY--HER SPIRIT AND WIT--CONTINUED TO BLOOM...
"AND I LOVED HER ALL THE MORE!

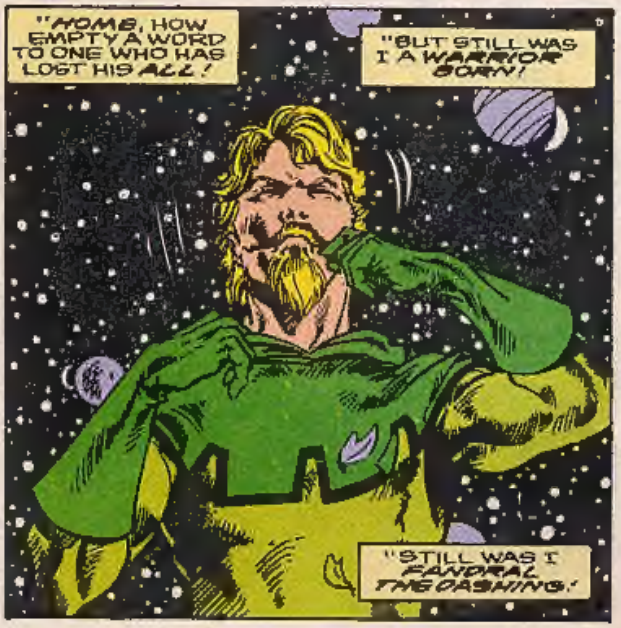

"TO ENSURE OUR PRIVACY FROM PRYING EYES AND WAGGING TONGUES, WE TOOK AN ESTATE IN THE COUNTRY...

"BUT THE YEARS PROVED RELENTLESS!
"NO FATAL BARB MOVES WITH GREATER SPEED--
"--OR DEADLIER ACCURACY!


"EVEN NOW, AFTER SO LONG A TIME, I CAN BARELY SPEAK HER NAME ALOUD--
"MARIAN...
"MY SWEET...
"SWEET MARIAN!

"WITH NO MORE TIES TO HOLD ME, I SUMMONED THE ENCHANTED ENERGY WHICH RESIDES WITHIN ALL TRUE AGGARDIANS--


"--AND RETURNED HOME!


"HOME, HOW EMPTY A WORD TO ONE WHO HAS LOST HIS ALL!
"BUT STILL WAS I A WARRIOR BORN!
"STILL WAS I FANDRAL THE DASHING!

"ALL I NEEDED WAS A JUST CAUSE AND A WORTHY CHALLENGE!
"AND, SHORTLY THEREAFTER, I FIRST ENCOUNTERED VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG--
"--BUT THAT IS A TALE FOR ANOTHER DAY!
EVERY YEAR, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR WEDDING DAY, I SECRETLY VISITED MARIAN...
'TWAS A TRADITION WHICH MUST NOW END!
RECENTLY HATH ODIN THE ALL-POWERFUL FORBIDDEN ALL CONTACT WITH THE EARTH!
NO LONGER CAN I JOURNEY HENCE!
I PETITIONED FOR DISPENSATION...
TO NO AVAIL!
THUS, HAVE YE GATHERED TO HONOR HER SWEET MEMORY!
A TOAST, MY FRIENDS!
LET US DRINK TO FAITH, HOPE, LOYALTY AND GRACE!
BUT, MOST OF ALL, LET US NEVER FORGET THOSE WE LOVED...
AND THOSE WE LOST...
THE END!